

Story 1512 (1976 Tape 26)

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Location: Çıkırıkçı village,
Sarıkaya kaza,
Yozgat Province

Date:

The Creation of Adam and Eve

Allah created the world this way. 900,000 years before the creation of the world, He created the Blessed Mohammed's light. He placed this light in a lamp¹ and hung it in a corner. As Allah looked at that light year after year, he shed a total of 124,000 drops of sweat, and the 124,000 prophets who have lived in this world came from those 124,000 drops of sweat. That light prostrated itself in worship of Allah five times, and that is the reason that the five daily prayer services of Moslems became mandatory. (There is another explanation for the required five prayer services each day, and this is that those services stand for the five greatest prophets after Mohammed. The early morning service stands for Adam; the noon service stands for İbrahim; the afternoon service stands for Jonah; the evening service stands for Christ; and the night service stands for Moses.

Before Allah created Adam, He created the angels and He created Satan, whose real name was Ezacı. ² There was no place

¹The word used here is kandil, the common term for an oil lamp.

²Word not located either in Turkish dictionaries or the Encyclopaedia of Islam.

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on earth or in the skies where this Satan did not prostrate himself in worship of Allah. He was so learned and wise that his words and his advice were everywhere respected. The angels on the first level of heaven were so amazed by his ability that they pleaded with the Deity, saying, "O Allah, please place him here on the first level so that we may see him.

But as soon as Allah placed Satan on the first level of heaven, those angels on the second level pleaded, "O Allah, please place him on our level so that we too may see him." This continued until eventually Satan had been placed for a while on all seven levels of heaven

On the corner of the arfi-rahman³ was inscribed the statement "There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is His Prophet." Satan testified to the first part of that statement, saying, "That is correct. There is indeed no god but Allah," but he neglected to repeat the second half of the inscribed statement. There was a ring of damnation hanging in heaven, and one day Satan asked Allah, "Whose neck will pass through that ring?"

Allah answered, "You will know that very soon.

When Allah was ready to create Adam, He sent Gabriel to earth to get a handful of clay from which He could shape

³Rahman is a word commonly used in reference to Allah, but its use in this context is unfamiliar to us.

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first man. Gabriel flew to earth and was about to take a handful of clay when the ground spoke, saying, "For the love of Allah, do not take any of my soil!" Because the ground had based its remark on the name of Allah, Gabriel was unable to take any soil. Michael was sent next to the earth, but for the same reason he was also prevented from taking any soil. Israfil was the next angel to come, and fail to retrieve any soil. Finally, Azrail⁴ came, and though the ground said, "For the love of Allah," Azrail snatched a handful of soil. According to one report, after he had grabbed the handful of soil, Azrail stood there, with the soil in his hand, thinking

forty days; according to another report, he stood there thinking for forty years. In the end, however, Allah forgave him for the delay and ordered him to take the soil to the place He had indicated.

Azrail took the soil to the place where the Beytullah (the Kaaba⁵) now stands. Azrail's handful of soil was so large that the whole area became a large hill, and that hill must be what is now Arafat Mountain.⁶ From one side of the

⁴The Angel of Death, usually envisioned to be a huge, powerful, and very formidable angel.

⁵The small square building within the Great Mosque at Mecca which houses the sacred black stone, the most venerated object in Islamic faith.

⁶Arafat Mountain is one of the stations visited by pilgrims as they make their ritual journey around Mecca. It is on this mountain that they throw stones at Satan.

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hill they took soil to make Adam's feet, and from the other side they took soil to fashion his arms. And for his heart they took soil from the exact spot where the Kaaba now stands. With his own hands Allah kneaded the clay--according to one report for forty days and according to another report for forty years. Then he gave final shape to the Blessed Adam.

(Incidentally, Adam was extremely tall. Once while he was at Serendip,⁷ at a much later time, his voice was so loud and so close to heaven that it disturbed the angels. They complained to Allah that they could not complete their prayers because of the noise made by Adam's voice. After that, Allah reduced the height of Adam to just sixty meters.

Satan came along and knocked on Adam's side, and what he heard was a hollow sound. "This is like an empty statue. I am not afraid of it," he said. "I shall enter its interior and see what is there." He entered the body of Adam, and Allah made it appear to him like a great city.

As Satan was looking around, he came to a place where there was something that looked like a large drawer. When Satan tried to pull open the drawer, his face was slapped, and a voice said, "Get away from here. You are not permitted to look inside that." That was the place where Adam's heart

⁷Serendip was the ancient name of what later became known as Ceylon and is presently known as Sri Lanka. Just why Adam should be in any way associated with Serendip is not explained

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was located. The human navel is the place upon which Satan spat. Gabriel carved out that spot on Adam's belly and threw it away. When he did so, it became a dog. (The reason that human beings are possessive is somehow related to their skin and flesh; the reason for their illnesses is somehow related to Satan's saliva left inside of Adam; and the reason they can endure heat, cold, and hunger is credited to the assistance of Gabriel.)

After Satan emerged from the body of Adam, he asked the other angels, "Will you obey this creature if Allah orders you to do so?"

"Yes, of course we shall," they answered.

To himself Satan said, "I shall not do so, for this thing was made of mere soil, but I was created from fire." After that, Satan did not worship Allah for 1,000 years, and because of that the ring of damnation was placed around his neck. It was then that he was thrown out of heaven. Upon orders from Allah, an angel kept slapping Satan on the back of the neck, and each blow pained him severely for twenty-four hours. The angel continued to slap the neck of Satan until the time that the Blessed Mohammed appeared on earth, and then, for the sake of Mohammed, Allah ordered the angel to stop inflicting this punishment. After Satan had been thrown out of heaven and

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punished in this way, the mighty angel Gabriel admitted, "Even I was afraid of the evil of Satan."

Even though Adam's body had by now been created, he was not yet really alive. He did not gain life until after Allah placed light within him. Allah said to the light, "Enter slowly through his mouth and do not come out quickly." And after that light had remained within him for many years, Adam finally came to life. Allah showed Adam that he was made of soil in order to keep him from becoming arrogant in the way that Satan had. This was while Adam was still in heaven

Adam began walking about in some of the parts of heaven until he grew tired. Then he lay down and fell asleep. Allah had waited until Adam was asleep before creating Eve from part of his left foot. He had done this because the pain of doing this while Adam was awake would have been so great that neither he nor any of his male descendants would ever have loved their wives.

One of the angels asked, "Who is this, Adam?"

Adam answered, "This is Eve. She was not here when I asleep, but she was here when I awoke. She is Eve

Wishing to embrace Eve, Adam said, "She was created for me, and so it is only right that I should enjoy her company."

"Keep your hands off her, Adam," said the angels.

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"Before you touch her, you should marry her. She should be yours in marriage," the angels said.

"You should say a salâtüselâm⁸ 1,000 times in one breath." But Adam had to take another breath before he was able to repeat it 1,000 times. It was this division of his prayer into two parts that was the basis for paying part of the bride-price at the time of the engagement, and part of it at a later time.

Satan, who had been thrown out of heaven, looked up and saw Adam and Eve wandering about in heaven and enjoying themselves. This annoyed Satan greatly. He went to the peacock and said, "Can you do anything that will make it possible me to reenter heaven for a while? There is a tree up there whose fruit gives eternal life to anyone who eats it. I shall bring some back, and after we have eaten it together neither old age nor death will be able to affect either of us."

"I have a friend who can get you into heaven," said peacock.

"Who is it?" asked Satan.

"It is the snake. He is the gatekeeper of heaven." In those days the snake was very different from what it is now. Then it had legs like a camel.

⁸In most cases this is a term used to indicate a prayer uttered at a moment when one is in great danger.

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Satan went at once and asked the snake to allow him to enter heaven, but the snake said, "I cannot do that. Allah would see me doing that."

"He would not see anything if I got into heaven by entering your mouth and coming out of your hind end." After arguing with the snake for a while, Satan persuaded him that there would be no danger to either of them if he entered heaven by passing through the snake's body in this way.

At that time Adam and Eve were wandering about heaven arm in arm. Allah had told them not to eat what grew on the wheat tree.⁹ He had said, "You may eat and drink whatever you wish from any other source, but do not go near that tree. To do so is to commit an evil act."

After Satan had reentered heaven, he went crawling along the floor of heaven and crying out loudly as he approached

"What is the matter?" she asked him.

"Alas, there will come a day when you will grow old, and at that time you will lose all of your present beauty and become ugly."

"What about that?"

"If that should happen, you will be thrown out of heaven, but there is a way of preventing that from happening. If you

⁹The narrator repeatedly refers to a wheat tree. One can only wonder if he means a wheat plant or a cluster of wheat plants.

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the food that grows on a certain tree here, you will keep young and beautiful and then you will remain in heaven forever."

"Very well. Which tree is it?"

"That tree over there," said Satan

When she heard this, Eve said, "Come, Adam! Listen to what this creature says! Let us go and eat some of the food from that tree over there."

"No, Eve. Allah forbade me to eat from that tree."

But Eve went to the tree, picked a grain of wheat from it, and ate it. Then she said, "Look here, Adam! I ate from this tree, but nothing happened to me. You come and eat some, too!"

There is a proverb which says, "A woman can be a man's demon." Adam took a bite of the wheat and then farted, causing a bad smell to spread in the air of heaven. Gabriel came at once and removed the crown from Adam's head. Michael came and removed the clothes from both Adam and Eve. The two ran among

trees trying to find something with which to cover themselves, but all of the trees except the fig tree refused to give them leaves with which to cover their nakedness. Allah punished the fig tree by taking away its blossoms and making it a nonflowering tree.

Then Allah called out, "Adam, why are you trying to hide

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from me? Wherever you may go, you are always right before my eyes.

They threw Adam out of heaven into the land of Serendip. Adam said, "This was the way it was going to be, whether or not I had eaten the grain from the wheat tree." They threw Eve into a place in Jeddah. They threw the snake from the gleaming gate of heaven to Basra. They threw the peacock from the Gate of Wrath¹⁰ to Isfahan.

The Blessed Adam cried for 300 years for Allah to forgive him. In the end he declared, "There is no god but Allah, and Mohammed is His Prophet." Upon hearing that declaration, Allah finally forgave him.

Adam and Eve were then reunited at Arafat, but they then proceeded to India, where they spent the rest of their lives.¹¹ There Allah sent them oxen and plows with which to till the soil. He also sent down from heaven three kernels of grain. They were brought to Adam and Eve by Gabriel, who also taught them how to plow and how to plant seeds. Eve planted one of

¹⁰This is not clear. The narrator says literally that the peacock was thrown from the gazap gate. Gazap may possibly, by extension, have here an adverbial function: He was thrown wrathfully from the gate. But what gate? The peacock was not in heaven, for Satan had consulted with it after he (Satan) had been expelled from heaven.

¹¹Such sudden and extreme geographical shifts can occur only in the realms of myth and fantasy.

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the kernels of grain, and barley grew from it. Adam planted one of the kernels of grain, and wheat grew from it.

(It is sometimes said that women should be forbidden to work in the fields. A woman's place is within four walls. There a woman may dress in any way she pleases, for only her husband will see her, but when she steps outside of her home, she should be completely covered. The Blessed Mohammed once said, "If a woman dresses in a way that arouses the feelings of men whom she passes, then that woman should be considered a whore. There will be no way in which she will ever be released from hell.")